



U.S. EPA
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

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 OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 18 2016

EPA-REGION 10

RE: Harbor Comments

The port is in such a dire strait right now, it's hard to see how it could get much worse. Unfortunately, businesses that depend on the port's economy, like restaurants, shipbuilders, and others, would be even more adversely affected if the EPA follows through on its plan to dredge the Willamette River in order to rid it of pollutants and contaminants. This action would close portions of the river indefinitely, and prevent businesses along the waterfront to survive.

Although there is never a good time to carry out this type of project, what the EPA is proposing will do more damage than good. Although less intrusive methods have been suggested, the EPA's plan threatens to re-contaminate the very river it claims to want to fix. Not only that, but it estimates that the cost will be over a billion dollars in taxpayer revenue over an indefinite period of time. Everybody knows that the longer the project lasts, the more expensive it's going to be.

I have owned a sign business in Portland for approximately 37 years. Even if my business is not in the immediate vicinity of the EPA project, I could still suffer financially if I wanted to sell the business at some point. I also live at the west end of the Willamette River, and I would not like to experience any negative consequences from the EPA's dredging. If there are less costly and more environmentally sound ways of cleaning the Willamette River than what the EPA is proposing, I think they should be considered.

Sincerely, 

(b) (6)

Owner

